

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 562

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to congratulate Dennis Vonderfecht upon being named the recipient of the 2012 Ned R. McWherter Leadership Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly salute those citizens who, through their remarkable efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable individual is Dennis Vonderfecht, who was recently named the 2012 Ned R. McWherter Leadership Award winner by the Tennessee Center for Performance Excellence (TNCPE); and

WHEREAS, the award recognizes individuals who exemplify outstanding leadership in the pursuit of performance excellence and who further performance improvement beyond the boundaries of his or her organization; and

WHEREAS, as President and Chief Executive Officer of Mountain States Health Alliance (MSHA), Mr. Vonderfecht has served as a leader in working to improve health and health care in Tennessee and the nation; and

WHEREAS, chosen from various industries, McWherter Leadership Award winners are committed to the core values of the TNCPE and the Criteria for Performance Excellence, the

nationally-recognized framework that helps organizations align resources, improve communication, productivity, and effectiveness, and achieve strategic goals; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vonderfecht leads a network of thirteen nonprofit hospitals serving a four-state, twenty-nine-county region in Northeast Tennessee, Southwest Virginia, Southeastern Kentucky, and Western North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the MSHA network received TNCPE Excellence awards in 2005 and 2009 and is one of only two organizations that has received the recognition twice; and

WHEREAS, Dennis Vonderfecht and his 13,500 MSHA team members, physicians, and volunteers are committed to the hospital network's mission of bringing loving care to health care; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vonderfecht also graciously dedicates his time and energies to serving as a member of Governor Bill Haslam's Health and Wellness Taskforce; and

WHEREAS, the McWherter Award is named after former Tennessee Governor, Ned R. McWherter, who served as governor when the TNCPE was founded in 1993; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Vonderfecht will accept the award at the TNCPE Excellence in Tennessee Awards Banquet on February 22, 2012, at the Franklin Marriott Cool Springs; and

WHEREAS, the success of the State of Tennessee, the strength of our communities, and the overall vitality of our society depend, in great measure, on the dedication of people like Mr. Vonderfecht who use their considerable talents and resources to serve others; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Dennis Vonderfecht for his many contributions to the good people of Tennessee, his unwavering commitment to others, and his astute leadership in the health care industry; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor Dennis Vonderfecht upon being named the recipient of the 2012 Ned R. McWherter Leadership Award, commend his outstanding record of

volunteerism, leadership, and community spirit, and extend to him our best wishes for every continued success and much happiness in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.